REMARKS

Applicant files this continuation application based on co-pending patent application Serial No. 09/906,200, filed July 16, 2001 (the "parent application"), and respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment before beginning examination of the continuation application, and early favorable action by the Examiner.

Applicant amends the specification to revise the "PRIORITY INFORMATION" section inserting the proper claim for priority and serial number of the parent application. Additionally, Applicant provides a set of formal drawings for the Official Draftperson's review to replace the set of informal drawings. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Further, Applicant hereby cancels claims 1-31, without prejudice and without any intention of abandoning the subject matter thereof, and adds new claims 32-78. Support for new claims 32-78 can be found throughout the specification, at least on page 8, lines 16-19, page 12, line 15 to page 13, line 8, page 15, lines 2-19, and page 17, lines 10-17. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Applicant submits that claims 32-78 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request entry as such.

A check for \$1256.00 in payment for the filing fee and extra claims fee is submitted herewith.. Applicant believes that no additional fee is due for this Preliminary Amendment to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional authorization to charge any related fees necessary for entry of this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Applicant respectfully requests that this application proceeds promptly to examination. If it is believed that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Preliminary Amendment Atty. Docket No.: ASC-049C1

Page 8 of 8

Date: February 9, 2004

Tel. No.: (617) 248-7453 Fax No.: (617) 248-7100

3019645

Respectfully submitted,

Mark L. Beloborodov, Reg. No. 50,773

Attorney for Applicants

Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibeault, LLP

High Street Tower 125 High Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02110